

Docket No. F-8984

Ser. No. 10/566,533

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 15, 17, 19 to 21 and 23 remain pending in this application.

Claims 3, 6 to 14, 16, 18, and 22 are cancelled herein.

1. Support for the amendment

In the amended claims 1, 20 and 23, the requirement of "transferring the powder particle layer onto the base sheet which is held on the receiving and transferring roller face such that an area of the base sheet contacting said receiving and transferring roller face is larger than an area of the base sheet contacting said temporary receiving roller face, while shifting the powder particle layer held on said temporary receiving roller face" has been added based on Figs 1 and 2 of the present application-

Claim 24 has been deleted.

2. Regarding the Claim Rejections - 35 USC §112 AND Drawing Objection

Claim 24 has been deleted. Therefore, the claim rejections regarding 35 USC §112 and the drawing objections regarding 37 CFR 1.83(a) have been solved.

Docket No. F-8984

Ser. No. 10/566,533

3. Regarding the Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

In the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledged that a transfer roll 190 of Lang corresponded to a receiving and transferring roller of the present invention and an applicator roll 14 of Lang corresponded to a temporary receiving roller of the present invention.

However, independent claims 1, 20 and 23 have been amended to define that "transferring the powder particle layer onto the base sheet which is held on the receiving and transferring roller face such that an area of the base sheet contacting said receiving and transferring roller face is larger than an area of the base sheet contacting said temporary receiving roller face, while shifting the powder particle layer held on said temporary receiving roller face". Thus, in the present invention, when the powder particle layer is transferred onto the base sheet from the temporary receiving roller face, the base sheet is held on the receiving and transferring roller face such that an area of the base sheet contacting the receiving and transferring roller face is larger than an area of the base sheet contacting the temporary receiving roller face.

On the other hand, in Lang, a receiving web 12/188 is not held on the transfer roll 190 such that an area of the receiving web 12/188 contacting the face of the

Docket No. F-8984

Ser. No. 10/566,533

transfer roll 190 is larger than an area of the receiving web 12/188 contacting the face of a depositing roll 134 (see Fig. 14 of Lang). Here, the depositing roll 184 in Fig. 14 of Lang corresponds to an applicator roll 14 in Figs. 1 and 4 of Lang, which was acknowledged to correspond to the temporary receiving roller of the present invention. In Lang, the area of the receiving web 12/188 contacting the face of the transfer roll 190 is smaller than the area of the receiving web 12/188 contacting the face of a depositing roll 184, as is clear from Fig. 14.

Accordingly, the Examiner's acknowledgement that the transfer roll 190 of Lang corresponds to the receiving and transferring roller of the present invention is not correct.

(b) In the present invention, since the base sheet is held on the receiving and transferring roller face such that the area of the base sheet contacting the receiving and transferring roller face is larger than the area of the base sheet contacting the temporary receiving roller face, the base sheet is conveyed by the rotation of the receiving and transferring roller. Further, in the present invention, since the powder particle layer is shifted at a shifting speed that is less than a transferring speed of the base sheet as defined by claim 1, or a surface peripheral velocity of the temporary receiving roller is less than a peripheral velocity of the receiving and transferring

Docket No. E-8984

Ser. No. 10/566,533

roller as defined by claims 20 and 23, the powder particle layer being transferred onto the base sheet becomes a linear shape or a blurred pattern in a shifting direction (page 23, lines 8-16 of the substitute specification).

(b-1) On the other hand, in Lang, since the receiving web 12/188 is not held *on* the transfer roll 190 such that the area of the receiving web 12/188 contacting the face of the transfer roll 190 is larger than the area of the receiving web 12/188 contacting the face of the depositing roll 184, particulate matter 84/180 could not be transferred onto the receiving web 12/188 in a liner shape or a blurred pattern, even when the particulate matter 84/180 is shifted at a shifted speed that is less than the speed of the receiving web 12/188 as defined by present claim 1.

In Lang, when the particulate matter 84/180 is deposited on the depositing/applicator roll 14/184, the particulate matter 84/180 is kept held in compartments formed on the surface of the depositing/applicator roll 14/184 while being covered with the receiving web 12/188, regardless of relative speeds of the depositing/applicator roll 14/184 and the receiving web 12/188. Even when the particulate matter 84/180 is shifted at a shifted speed that is less than the speed of the receiving web 12/188, the receiving web 12/188 only slides over the depositing/applicator roll 14/184 while the particulate matter 84/180 is sustained to be held in

Docket No. F-8984

Ser. No. 10/566,533

the compartments on the depositing/applicator roll 14/184. Therefore, when the particulate matter 84/180 is released from the compartments on the depositing/applicator roll 14/184 to be transferred on the receiving web 12/188, the particulate matter 84/180 is formed into predefined discrete piles corresponding to the shape of the compartment, regardless of relative speeds of the depositing/applicator roll 14/184 and the receiving web 12/188, because the receiving web 12/188 wraps around the face of the depositing/applicator roll 14/184 in Lang. Thus, in Lang, the particulate matter 84/180 could not be transferred onto the receiving web 12/188 in a liner shape or a blurred pattern, even if the particulate matter 84/180 is shifted at a shifted speed that is less than the speed of the receiving web 12/188.

Accordingly, the present invention of claim 1 could not be achieved based on Lang in view of Packard et al.

(b-2) Furthermore, in Lang, since the receiving web 12/188 is not held on the transfer roll 190 such that the area of the receiving web 12/188 contacting the face of the transfer roll 190 is larger than the area of the receiving web 12/188 contacting the face of the depositing roll 184, particulate matter 84/180 could not be transferred onto the receiving web 12/188 in a liner shape or a blurred pattern, even when a surface

Docket No. F-8984

Ser. No. 10/566,533

peripheral velocity of the depositing roll 184 is less than a peripheral velocity of the transfer roll 190 as defined by present claims 20 and 23.

In Lang, since the receiving web 12/188 wraps around the face of the depositing/applicator roll 14/184, the receiving web 12/188 moves with the same speed as the depositing/applicator roll 14/184. Thus, even if the surface peripheral velocity of the depositing roll 184 is set to be less than the peripheral velocity of the transfer roll 190, the transfer roll 190 only slides over the receiving web 12/188, and the particulate matter 84/180 is kept held in compartments formed on the surface of the depositing/applicator roll 14/184. Therefore, when the particulate matter 84/180 is released from the compartments on the depositing/applicator roll 14/184 to be transferred on the receiving web 12/188, the particulate matter 84/180 is formed into predefined discrete piles corresponding to the shape of the compartment, regardless of surface velocities of the depositing/applicator roll 14/184 and the transfer roll 190. Thus, in Lang, the particulate matter 84/180 could not be transferred onto the receiving web 12/188 in a liner shape or a blurred pattern, even if the surface peripheral velocity of the depositing roll 184 is less than the peripheral velocity of the transfer roll 190.

Docket No. F-8984

Ser. No. 10/566,533

Accordingly, the present inventions of claims 20 and 23 could not be achieved based on Lang in view of Packard et al.

(c) Accordingly, the present inventions of claims 1, 20 and 23 are unobvious over Lang in view of Packard et al.

NO FEE DUE

No fee is believed due. If there is any fee due the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 10-1250,

Docket No. F-8984

Ser. No. 10/566,533

In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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